

I champion Albany public schools because...

THE OPPORTUNITY:

"I took a lot of AP courses as a junior and senior at Albany High and I remember being impressed by a VoTech program in which a licensed architect taught drafting and design – a unique opportunity for a high school student. The classroom had all of the accoutrements, computers and drafting tables that you would find in many professional architectural firms. It was really an inspiration and helped fuel my interest in architecture as a career.

"When you enter Albany public schools, you realize that the facilities and resources that the district has at its disposal are vast -- not only the computers and the instructors, but also the architecture of these great buildings.

"And families living in the city have the ability to choose from different types of educational models. From the Montessori program to something more traditional, there are options.

"Working with the district has widened my eyes to the fact that these opportunities are not available in many other communities."

THE ACHIEVEMENT:

"After I graduated from Albany High in 1985, I immediately started working at an engineering company and then for an architectural firm here in Albany and New York City. While I was there, I designed a school for the district, Philip J. Schuyler Achievement Academy. The district offered me a job to help manage their capital projects, and so I became the senior architect for the district until late 2005, when I left to launch the Hamlin Design Group.

"Albany has a wonderful breadth of diverse buildings. From Philip Schuyler, a building that was originally built in 1897 for railroad workers as the city was expanding at the turn of the century, to something more modern and fun like Sheridan Prep or Stephen and Harriet Myers, to something more reserved like Eagle Point, it reflects an urban environment where buildings either lead to, or support the identity of the communities that



Shawn Hamlin, AIA
Albany High School, Class of 1985
Managing Principal, Hamlin Design Group, Albany

they are in. To me, that's really interesting. I know buildings aren't everything, but they really add to the quality of life and the quality of education."

Shawn Hamlin is the managing principal of Hamlin Design Group, an architectural and planning firm that prides itself on balancing a client's mission, available resources and inspiring aesthetics. Mr. Hamlin has been involved in numerous projects throughout New York state. Currently he is leading the planning of Syracuse's \$180 million school renovation project. Mr. Hamlin also has played an important role in the creation of the multi-year facilities plan for the City School District of Albany. He also has participated in design projects for the proposed Albany Convention Center as well as designing the award-winning parking structure for the State University Administration building and the Albany International Airport.